



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Delta Township Fire Department, Station #1
811 N. Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48917
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
1:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Beeson, Michigan Townships Association
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Kurt Corradi, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
David Feichtner, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Kevin Sehmeyer, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member
Kyle Svoboda, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joseph Schehr, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Robert Stokes, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal, Recording Secretary
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
Aileen Pettinger, Region 2 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
Liam Carroll, Certification Specialist, Fire Fighter Training Division

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Erskine, Marshall Fire Department
Tracy St. John, Training Coordinator, Bureau of Fire Services
Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
David Mills, White Lake Township Fire Department
Cory Kernodle, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Brandon Hausbeck, Saginaw Fire Department
Christopher VanLoo, Saginaw Township Fire Department
Larry Gambotto, Rochester Hills Fire Department
Shea Peters, Battle Creek Fire Department
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department/Training Coordinator, Bureau of Fire Services
Jim Stevenson, Warren Fire Department
Cameron Pichan, Detroit Fire Department
Tim Baker, Lansing Community College Regional Training Center

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Councilperson Blomstrom called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 pm. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen firefighters. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Hollie Metts. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilperson Blomstrom requested to add introduction of council members under Item 4 - Communications.

22-06-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Beeson** to approve the June 14, 2022 regular meeting agenda as amended. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

22-06-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Richardson** to approve the December 3, 2021 and February 8, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND COUNCIL INTRODUCTIONS:

Councilperson Svoboda is a member of the Plainfield Township Fire Department and has been appointed to represent the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society. No communications.

Councilperson Corradi serves as the fire chief in Bay City and has been appointed to represent the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC). No communications.

Councilperson Feichtner serves as the fire chief in Springfield Township (Oakland County) and has also been appointed to represent the MAFC. No communications.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer has received questions regarding felony convictions (discussed under Item 5 – State Fire Marshal’s Report). On February 21, 2022, he also received a letter from the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association (MFSIA) regarding county funding in a specific county, which has since complied and received their county funding.

Councilperson Blomstrom primarily works for the City of Greenville Department of Public Safety and has been reappointed to represent the MFSIA. No communications.

Councilperson Beeson is the supervisor in Pine River Township (Gratiot County) and has been appointed to represent the Michigan Townships Association. No communications.

Councilperson Richardson primarily works for the State of Michigan with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, is a volunteer firefighter in Paw Paw (VanBuren County) and has been appointed (second term) to represent the Michigan State Firemen’s Association. No communications.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer added Chairperson Stokes and Councilperson Schehr were unable to attend due to previous obligations however, both are very excited to be appointed to council. It was asked if in the future, if a council member is unable to attend, could a proxy participate in their absence. Because these are appointed positions a proxy cannot attend.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a) **Clarification on Felony Convictions:** Reciprocity cannot be granted if an individual has been convicted of a felony. However, with the approval of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), a person who has been convicted of a felony may go through training and be certified in Michigan. Prior to taking an exam, the student would be required to disclose the felony conviction on the Training Certification Application (BFS-205). Challenging the exam is also not allowed, per the Rules. The discipline process was also discussed. The Fire Marshal shared that council could revoke or suspend a certification if brought forward by the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) following an investigation or request from the AHJ.
- b) **Form Updates:** Asked for patience with the BFS as staff updates forms to implement the new rules.
- c) **Bureau Website:** All departments in the State of Michigan are moving to a new web platform. This transition has caused some issues with broken links and missing forms. Please contact staff if you need a form that is not currently available on the BFS website.
- d) **Council Appointments/Reappointments:** Welcomed all new and returning council members. Board member orientations will be held prior to the August meeting. At the August meeting, council will vote on a vice chairperson to serve a two-year term per PA 291, [Section 29.365](#) and take pictures to update the council's webpage.
- e) **BFS Staffing Updates:**
 - i. **Aileen Pettinger, Region 2 Coordinator:** First came on board with BFS as a Fire Marshal Inspector in the Gaylord Region. Aileen has since moved over to the Fire Fighter Training Division (FFTD).
 - ii. **FFTD Department Tech Vacancy:** Andrea Keown resigned effective May 13, 2022. Hollie Metts will be working with the council and Liam Carroll is handling the exams until this position is filled. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier added the FFTD is currently running behind on grading exams (the metric is within five business days of receipt) and stressed the importance of submitting complete course paperwork. Firefighter I & II exams are the current priority.
- f) **Curriculum Committee Membership:** BFS will send a letter to all fire service groups to confirm their representatives on the committee. The Curriculum Committee will work on the Fire Officer III exam in September.
- g) **FY22 Course Summary:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave an overview of the course summary. Council was provided a handout in their packet.
- h) **New Courses:**
 - i. **Fire Instructor II:** The first class ran March through April 2022. All students passed. The BFS made some minor changes following a QA of the course. The MFSIA will sponsor another class beginning in August that will run through mid-September and will be fully funded using returned fireworks funds. If additional funding were to become available before the end of the fiscal year, the Fire Marshal would be interesting in running another course.
 - ii. **Fire Officer III:** In the process of developing the curriculum, which will be available after October 1, 2022. This will be a 16-week program with 12 chapters from J&B Chief Officer. To meet the JPRs, this course will be project based with a focus on community risk reduction and emergency management. Students will also be required to submit for a fictitious grant. Again, the Curriculum Committee should plan to meet in September to

review the exam. A Fire Office III Train-the-Trainer is planned for August. The Fire Marshal stressed that everyone's certifications prior to November 3, 2021 are still good.

- i) **Fire Training Video:** Legislative requirement for all Michigan fire departments to show a 14-minute [video](#) on the health, handling, and proper use of Class B AFFF to their members. Fire departments have been asked to complete the required training and submit the training roster to BFS by July 1, 2022. BFS is tracking compliance. Two attempts to notify the fire departments have been made (via email with a follow up letter in the mail to the address provided in the Fire Service Directory). A third attempt to notify the fire departments through the city or township officials will be made to for any department that has not met the requirement by July 1.
- j) **Fire Department Survey:** The Fire Marshal also asks that all fire chiefs complete a short fire department [survey](#). To date, a total of 287 departments have responded. The information will be used to update SMOKE (training database), the Fire Service Directory, and to get a better understanding of the recruiting and retention challenges affecting Michigan fire departments.
- k) **JC5 Fire Training:** Report out on the training held in Lansing in March, Lapeer in April, and Gaylord in May. The training in Lansing was well attended (approximately 130 people). Hands-on Training was also well received for all three locations; however, due to low registration some of the lecture classes were cancelled in both Lapeer and Gaylord. The attendees were surveyed after the training. The Fire Marshal will share the survey results with council at the August meeting.
- l) **County Training Committees:** The county training committee (CTC) chairpersons have been elected for a one-year term (April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023). The Fire Marshal hosted a call with the CTC chairpersons on May 25, 2022 to answer any questions they may have on their role as CTC chairperson. As a reminder, the annual training needs surveys are due by June 15, 2022, and are required to receive FY23 county funding.
- m) **Behavioral and Mental Health Grants:** As a reminder, courses must be completed by end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2022.
- n) **Legislative Updates:** Proposed legislation to watch:
 - i. [Senate Bill 991](#): Involves the replacement of underground storage tanks.
 - ii. [House Bill 5561](#): Involves radio systems in K-12 schools. If passed, this bill will require schools to install a repeater and antenna system in every school district in Michigan.
- o) **Fatal Fire Update:** To date, there have been a total of 69 deaths in 56 fires statewide. The Fire Marshal added the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs recently approved \$150,000 in funding for BFS to purchase smoke alarms.
- p) **Wednesday Wrap-Up Dates/Times:** The next wrap up is on June 15, 2022 at 4:00 pm, followed by June 29th at 4:00 pm and again on July 13th at 4:00 pm.

Following the Fire Marshal's report there was a discussion regarding unencumbered funds and the process of reallocating funds. Funding for FY23 will be discussed at the August meeting. The Fire Marshal will also provide council with a list of the counties that have funding left.

VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Councilperson Blomstrom stated the Curriculum Committee will wait to move forward on the Fire Office III exam once the fire groups have selected their representatives.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Q Course Applications:**

1. OCC High Rise Firefighting Operations **(FMQ22-001)**
Instructor: Tim Miller / Phone: 248-346-0410
2. Chief Officer Field Training Academy **(FMQ22-002)**
Instructors: Rick Lasky and John Salka / Phone: 214-673-1161 or 914-755-6866
3. Foam Operations for Flammable Liquid Fires **(FMQ22-003)**
Instructor: John Smilnak / Phone: 734-502-1335
4. W.A.R. (We Are Resilient) **(FMQ22-004)**
Instructors: Cobey Taylor and Kymberly Pashkowsky
Phone: 231-884-9707 or 616-560-4323
5. START Vehicle Extraction: Tomorrow and Today **(FMQ22-005)**
Instructor: Carl Hein / Phone: 734-765-0135
6. Growing Concerns and Cultivating Safety **(FMQ22-006)**
Instructor: Adam Munro / Phone: 810-531-0922
7. OCAAFII Annual Origin and Cause Seminar **(FMQ22-007)**
Instructors: Various
8. Mercy Elite Sports Performance's Tactical Nutrition and Wellness **(FMQ22-008)**
Instructor: Karlie Kelly / Phone: 586-864-0657
9. Performance Under Pressure **(FMQ22-009)**
Instructor: Rob Blasetti / Phone: 239-810-1176
10. Performance Under Pressure: 1st Alarm Company Operations **(FMQ22-010)**
Instructor: Rob Blasetti / Phone: 239-810-1176
11. Aerial Operations and Outside Truck Functions **(FMQ22-011)**
Instructor: Rob Blasetti / Phone: 239-810-1176
12. Resiliency and Psychological First Aid During Crisis **(FMQ22-012)**
Instructor: Ayelet Shmuel / Phone: 720-252-7887

22-06-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Corradi** and seconded by **Councilperson Svoboda** to **approve** Q Course applications **FMQ22-001 through FMQ22-012. MOTION CARRIED.**

13. RAFT Fire Officer I **(FMQ22-013)**
Instructors: RAFT Training Coordinator Andy Bezenah and RAFT Staff Instructors
Phone: 248-521-5453 or 810-545-7238
14. RAFT Fire Officer II **(FMQ22-014)**
Instructors: RAFT Training Coordinator Andy Bezenah and RAFT Staff Instructors
Phone: 248-521-5453 or 810-545-7238

22-06-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to **deny** Q Course applications **FMQ22-013 and FMQ22-014** due to a conflict with R29.402 of the rules. This denial does not prevent an individual from applying for reciprocity, only the use of fireworks safety fees for funding. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Martin Erskine, Marshall Fire Department: Welcomed the new council members and expressed his appreciation to both the council and staff for their work. He inquired about online testing and feels it would eliminate paperwork and mail issues. He would also like to see more training on marijuana facilities.

Brandon Hausbeck, Saginaw Fire Department shared his frustrations with council, including the reciprocity process for individuals who have a teaching degree, the four-hour orientation, and stated he feels more could have been done to support departments in getting more Instructor II's to continue live burn training.

Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety stated \$850 of the current unencumbered funding balance will be used to fund a Suicide RIT training on September 20th. He also asked should funding become available that it be redistributed to Oakland County.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Richardson stated it is a pleasure to be back and looks forward to serving another four-year term.

Councilperson Beeson looks forward to learning more about the council and firefighter training in general.

Councilperson Feichtner looks forward to working with council and learning new creative ways to spend the funding.

Councilperson Corradi stated he, too, looks forward to working with council over the next four years and thanked Chief Erskine for his comments regarding electronic testing.

Councilperson Svoboda echoed the previous council comments and encouraged the attendees to keep voicing their opinions.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer thanked staff for their work and looks forward to working with council.

Councilperson Blomstrom stated he is excited to be back for another four years and looks forward to getting to work.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

22-06-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to **adjourn** the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

APPROVED: MFFTC Regular Meeting 8/9/22 (Motion #22-08-02)